

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejection of this claim is moot.

The scanning nonlinear dielectric microscopy (SNDM) method specified in claim 17 is generally described on page 11 of the subject patent application:

in this technique, a probe scans over a dielectric (ferroelectric) substance to detect the capacitance corresponding to the nonlinear dielectric constant of the dielectric (ferroelectric) substance. The data or information is recorded as the polarization directions of the dielectric (ferroelectric) substance. The nonlinear dielectric constant of the dielectric (ferroelectric) substance is changed according to the polarization direction. Therefore, by detecting the capacitance corresponding to the nonlinear dielectric constant of the dielectric (ferroelectric) substance, the data or information recorded in the dielectric (ferroelectric) substance can be read.

The SNDM technique is further explained elsewhere in the subject patent application. Reference is also made in the subject patent application to Japanese patent application no. 2001-274346 for its disclosure of the SNDM technique. For the examiner's convenient reference, a copy of the published Japanese application and the corresponding U.S. published application are enclosed. To provide even greater clarity, claim 17 has been amended to more specifically describe a device for reproducing information recorded as polarization directions of the dielectric material of the recording medium using scanning nonlinear dielectric microscopy. Based on this amendment, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 as allegedly being indefinite is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 5, 7, 8, 10-12 and 16 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and intervening claim 3. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 4, 13, 14 and 17 are believed to be allowable. Claim 6 has been written in self-standing

independent form by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1 along with the subject matter of allowable claim 7. Consequently, claim 6 and its dependent claims 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable. Claims 10, 11, 12 and 16 have been written in self-standing independent form and are believed to be allowable. Claims 3, 5, 7 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. All pending claims are believed to be allowable.

Because of the above amendments, the rejection based on Newns et al. is moot.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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